

Declaration of Emergency
Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Board of Animal Health
Trichomoniasis (LAC 7:XXI.339)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, specifically R.S. 49:953 (B), and under the authority of R.S. 3:2093, 3:2095, and 3:2097 the Louisiana Board of Animal Health declares an emergency to exist and adopts by emergency process the attached amendments to provide for the testing and reporting of cattle for trichomoniasis, movement and disposition of bulls and cows that test positive for trichomoniasis, the quarantine of cattle relative to trichomoniasis, and to provide for related matters.

Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease of cattle brought about by *Tritrichomonas foetus*, a protozoal parasite, which may cause early embryonic death of the fetus or late term abortion. Bulls carry the parasite and pass it on to cows during breeding. The parasite is almost impossible to detect in cows and is difficult to detect in bulls. The parasite may be transmitted from the cow to her calf during birthing. The financial losses caused by trichomoniasis are substantial. Infected herds have a decrease in the number of calves being born, sometimes as much as a 55% decrease. The Louisiana cattle industry has approximately 420,000 breeding age cows and 25,600 bulls. Based on this number of cows the calving rate is approximately eighty-five percent, for a total of 544,000 calves a year. A breeding cow will sell, on average, for approximately \$1,200 and a breeding bull will sell, on average for approximately \$2,000. A calf will sell, on average, for \$500. A cow or bull sold for slaughter will bring, on average, \$500. If Louisiana's cattle become infected statewide with trichomoniasis it is conservatively estimated that 50% of the cows and bulls will be infected and that the calving rate will decrease to a 50% birthing rate. Based on this estimate the Louisiana cattle industry would lose \$112,000,000 from unborn calves, \$22,400,000 from the sale of infected breeding cows for slaughter rather than as a breeder, and \$19,200,000 from the sale of infected bulls for slaughter, rather than as a breeding bull. The cost for replacing the infected cows and bulls with cows and bulls capable of breeding immediately would be \$38,400,000 for replacement cows and \$25,600,000 for replacement bulls. The threat posed by trichomoniasis creates an imminent peril to the public welfare of the citizens of this state, the viability of Louisiana's cattle industry and to the health of the cattle in this state, thereby requiring promulgation of these emergency regulations.

These emergency rules are effective upon the signature of the Commissioner and shall remain in effect for 120 days, unless renewed or until permanent rules and regulations become effective.

Title 7 Agriculture and Animals

Part XXI. Diseases of Animals

§339. Trichomoniasis Testing and Movement Requirements for Cattle

A. Every bull moved into this state and every bull within this state which is sold, exchanged, leased, rented, sold, or otherwise transferred in ownership or possession (hereafter collectively referred to as "transferred") from one person to another shall be accompanied by a test result showing that the bull is free from Trichomoniasis (hereafter referred to as "negative test result" or "testing negative") except for the following bulls.

1. exhibition and rodeo bulls that are temporarily in the state only for the purpose of the event and will be leaving the state immediately after the event;
2. bulls going direct to slaughter or being sold to go direct to slaughter;

3. virgin bulls accompanied by a certification of virgin status signed by the owner of the bull, or the owner's representative or an accredited veterinarian and including the bull's individual identification; and

4. bulls being transported through this state in interstate commerce unless offloaded and comingled with female cattle already in this state that are not going direct to slaughter.

B. Every bull required to be accompanied by a negative test result shall be tested no later than 30 days prior to being moved into the state or the date of transfer, except for bulls that are in a trichomoniasis-free certification program or a semen certification program, recognized by the state veterinarian.

C. Every bull moved into this state and every bull within this state which is transferred from one person to another, except for the bulls listed in Subparagraph 1-4 of Subsection A of this Section, shall be identified by one or more of the following means:

1. Brucellosis ear tag;
2. official 840 radio frequency identification device (RFID);
3. official 840 flap or bangle tag;
4. official individual animal breed registry brand;
5. official individual animal breed registry tattoo; or
6. an official state of origin trichomoniasis tag.

D. The requirements for testing a bull for trichomoniasis are as follows.

1. All test samples shall be drawn by an accredited veterinarian.
2. The testing of samples shall be through the use of a test approved by the state veterinarian or by USDA APHIS VS that is performed at an official laboratory or by an accredited veterinarian qualified to test for trichomoniasis.

3. Test results that show that the tested animal has trichomoniasis (hereafter referred to as "positive test results" or "testing positive") shall immediately cause the tested animal to be classified as trichomoniasis infected and subject to the restrictions set out in this Section.

4. An additional test to confirm the presence of trichomoniasis may be requested in the event of an initial positive test result, but the request for the confirmatory test must be made to the state veterinarian within 5 business days of notification of the positive test result.

a. If the confirming test comes back negative then the tested animal is considered negative for trichomoniasis and may be moved as such.

b. If the confirming test comes back positive then the tested animal shall be subject to the restrictions set out in this Section.

5. A bull being tested for trichomoniasis shall be kept separate from female cattle at all times during the entire test period from the taking of samples until receipt of the results of the initial test results. A bull testing negative on the initial test may be comingled with female cattle upon receipt of the test results while a bull testing positive shall be immediately subject to the restriction on trichomoniasis infected bulls set out in this Section.

6. All test results for trichomoniasis, whether negative or positive, shall be reported to the state veterinarian within 24 hours after receipt of the results.

7. When a positive test result is received the treating veterinarian shall consult with the state veterinarian on the first business day after receipt of the test results to determine a plan of action regarding the animal testing positive.

E. Bulls that are required to be tested for trichomoniasis prior to being moved into this state or prior to being transferred from one person to another but which have not been tested shall be kept separate from breedable-type cattle until tested and a negative result is obtained.

F. Bulls, except for virgin bulls, that are not required to be tested for trichomoniasis prior to being moved into this state or prior to being transferred from one person to another shall, at all times, be kept separate from female cattle until tested and a negative result is obtained. However, a bull being moved direct to slaughter or sold to go direct to slaughter may be comingled with breedable-type cattle also being moved direct to slaughter or being sold to go direct to slaughter.

G. Bulls testing positive for trichomoniasis are subject to the following restrictions.

1. No known trichomoniasis infected bull shall be moved into or within this state or transferred within this state from one person to another, unless the bull is going direct to slaughter or being sold to go direct to slaughter.

2. No known trichomoniasis infected bull, whether being moved into or within this state, shall be used for breeding purposes and shall be kept separate from female cattle, from the time the first positive test result is received.

3. A trichomoniasis infected bull shall be moved direct to slaughter, or sold to go direct to slaughter within 30 days from receipt of the positive results of the original test or the results of the confirming test, whichever is later.

4. A trichomoniasis infected bull may be moved only after a VS 1-27 permit is issued by the testing veterinarian or the state veterinarian or his representative. The VS 1-27 permit shall accompany the bull upon movement of the animal.

H. If a trichomoniasis infected bull has been in a herd with female cattle then the infected bull and the other bulls in the herd are subject to the following requirements.

1. The trichomoniasis infected bull shall be immediately separated from the herd and all other bulls in the herd and shall be moved or transferred only as allowed by this Section.

2. If there is any other bull or bulls in the herd then all other such bulls shall be immediately separated from, and kept separate from all female cattle.

3. Each such bull shall be tested for trichomoniasis as soon as possible. Test samples shall not be pooled.

4. A bull testing negative shall be immediately removed from all other bulls that have not been tested or for which the test results have not been received and shall be considered to be a negative bull for all purposes.

5. A bull testing positive shall immediately be classified as a Trichomoniasis infected bull and shall be subject to the restrictions imposed in this Section on such bulls.

6. An additional test to confirm the presence of trichomoniasis may be requested in the event of an initial positive test result, but the request for the confirmatory test must be made to the state veterinarian within 5 business days of notification of the positive test result.

- a. If the confirming test comes back negative then the bull shall be considered negative for trichomoniasis.

- b. If the confirming test comes back positive then the bull shall be considered to be infected with trichomoniasis and subject to the restrictions imposed in this Section on such bulls.

I. A trichomoniasis infected herd is a herd known to contain or have contained a trichomoniasis infected bull or cow. If a virgin bull or bull that has tested negative for trichomoniasis is comingled with female cattle from a trichomoniasis infected herd then the virgin bull or bull with negative test results shall be tested for and found to be free of trichomoniasis before being moved, placed into another herd, or transferred from one person to another.

J. A cow is not required to be tested for trichomoniasis before being moved into this state or transferred from one person to another but if a cow is tested then the same procedure set out in this Section for testing a bull shall apply to the testing of a cow.

K. A cow testing positive for trichomoniasis shall be subject to the following restrictions:

1. A cow testing positive for trichomoniasis shall not be moved into this state, except to go direct to slaughter or to be sold to go direct to slaughter.

2. A cow within this state that has tested positive for trichomoniasis shall be immediately separated from, and kept separate from all bulls.

a. The cow shall be moved direct to slaughter or sold to go direct to slaughter within 30 days from receipt of the positive result of the original test or the confirming test, whichever is later, unless placed under a quarantine program approved by the state veterinarian.

b. If the cow is quarantined then it may not be moved from quarantine until the quarantine is released in writing by the state veterinarian. The cow may be released from quarantine only if the cow is subsequently tested and found to be free from trichomoniasis or if the cow is to be moved direct to slaughter or to be sold to go direct to slaughter.

3. A trichomoniasis infected cow may be moved only after a VS 1-27 permit is issued by the testing veterinarian or the state veterinarian or his representative. The VS 1-27 permit shall accompany the cow upon movement of the animal.

L. Quarantine facilities

1. A livestock owner or lessor, livestock dealer, and a public livestock market facility may, with the written approval of the state veterinarian, establish a quarantine facility to hold bulls being moved into this state or being sold in this state until they can be tested for trichomoniasis.

2. The quarantine facility shall be inspected and approved by the state veterinarian or his representative prior to being placed into use.

3. The fencing or railing of the quarantine facility must be of material that will keep a bull from being able to breed with a cow located in an adjacent pen or pasture and of sufficient strength to keep a bull from escaping the quarantine facility.

4. A bull in a quarantine facility testing positive for trichomoniasis shall be immediately separated from, and kept separate from, all female cattle and shall be subject to the restrictions imposed by this Section on a trichomoniasis infected bull.

M. The state veterinarian may grant a written exception or variance to the provisions of this Section, with such conditions as the state veterinarian may impose, if such action is necessary to provide for unforeseen situations or circumstances. Any such exception or variance shall balance the need to protect cattle from trichomoniasis with the need to allow cattle to move in commerce.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:2093, 3:2095, and 3:2097.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Board of Animal Health, LR 35:1466 (August 2009), amended LR 36:

Signed and attested to this 24th day of May, 2009.

MIKE STRAIN DVM, COMMISSIONER OF
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY